

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention provides a printing apparatus which controls to inhibit any inadvertent write to a memory in an expendable so as to securely manage the exchange timing and the like of the expendable. For this purpose, the expendable such as a toner cartridge or the like comprises a rewritable nonvolatile memory (21) which holds information indicating whether or not its service life has expired. When the toner cartridge is attached to the printing apparatus, it is ready to communicate with a printer engine controller in the printing apparatus, and write to the nonvolatile memory (21) can be made in accordance with an instruction from a control unit. A lock functional unit (21a) writes information indicating write inhibition at a predetermined address in the nonvolatile memory (21), thus inhibiting write to the address position that stores the information indicating whether or not its service life has expired.